

## Women's Parliamentary Caucus

### Constitution

Adopted by all present 12 July, 2017

#### **Vision**

As part of a more gender equal society, the vision of the Women's Caucus is an Ireland where there is equal representation of women and men in the Oireachtas and on city and county councils.

#### **Mission**

The mission of the Women's Caucus is to bring together women members of the Oireachtas from all parties and none. To work purposefully, promoting and supporting women's participation in politics, nationally and locally; to develop and advocate for legislation, policy and other initiatives that address issues affecting women and society. To advance the agreed agenda of the Caucus within political parties and other spheres of influence.

#### **Values**

The values of the Women's Caucus are: equality, solidarity, diversity and democracy.

#### **Membership**

The membership of the Women's Caucus is as follows:

Every current and previous woman member of Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann will be a member of the Women's Caucus unless she opts out.

#### **Working Arrangements**

The members will invite nominations from the membership for the positions of Chairperson, Vice Chair and three ordinary members to form a Working Group.

Nominations for all positions will require a proposer and seconder.

The Chairperson and Vice Chair will always come from different political parties or groups.

The Chairperson, Vice Chair and Working Group will rotate and be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting by the full membership.

The positions of Chairperson, Vice Chair and Working Group members will be filled through an election with majority voting and a secret ballot. The electorate for this will be restricted to current members of Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann with each member having a single vote.

The voting system will be PR-STV.

It will be the responsibility of the Chairperson and Working Group to consult the members and draw up an annual Work Programme for the Women's Caucus to be approved by the full membership, call meetings and keep members informed of the work of the Women's Caucus. The Work Programme will include a range of activities including outreach.

The Women's Caucus will be supported by a secretariat provided by the National Women's Council of Ireland.

\*The Chairperson, Vice Chair and Working Group will carry over from the end of the parliamentary term to the start of the new one. A general meeting will be called of the full membership to elect a new Chairperson, Vice Chair and Working Group within one month of the establishment of the full new Oireachtas.

### **Meetings**

The full membership of the Women's Caucus will meet at least annually to receive a report for the previous year and approve the annual Work Programme. However it is envisaged that the full membership would be called to meet by the Chairperson and Working Group up to four times a year.

Other than Annual General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings (see below) notice for ordinary meetings of the full membership is two weeks.

The quorum for meetings of the full membership is 10 members to be present.

The Chairperson, Working Group and Secretariat will meet more frequently as required. Minutes will be kept and made available to all members of decisions taken.

For Working Group meetings, three member of the Group must be present for meetings, with one being either the Chairperson or Vice Chair.

Decisions will be arrived at by consensus preferably, but where this is not possible, decisions will be made through simple majority voting of those present at the meeting.

### **Constitution change**

The Constitution sets out the rules of the Women's Caucus. It will be reviewed by 12 July, 2018.

Otherwise the Constitution can be changed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). Members must be given 21 days' notice of an AGM or EGM.